

The Tower of Babel: Fr.Ronald Rolheiser OMI

The opening pages of the Bible offer us a series of stories set at the beginning of history which are meant to explain why the world today is as it is. The Adam and Eve story about original sin is one of those stories. There are others. These stories, because they use imagery that might make them sound like fairy tales, can seem total fantasy to us, but they are stories that are truer than true. They happened. They happened to the first man and woman on this planet, and they continue to happen today in a way that affects every man and woman throughout history. They are stories of the heart, not meant to be taken literally, but carrying lessons for the heart. One of these "in the beginning", foundational, archetypal, stories is the story of the Tower of Babel. In street language, it goes like this: In the beginning (before time was like it is now) there was a town called Babel which decided it would make a name for itself by building a tower so impressive that all the other towns would have to admire it. They began building the tower, but something strange happened. As they were building it, they suddenly all began to speak different languages, were no longer able to understand each other, and scattered around the world, each now speaking in a language incomprehensible to everyone else. What's the lesson? Is this meant to explain the origin of the different languages of the world? No, rather it is meant to explain the deep, seemingly irreconcilable misunderstandings among us. Why do we forever misunderstand each other?

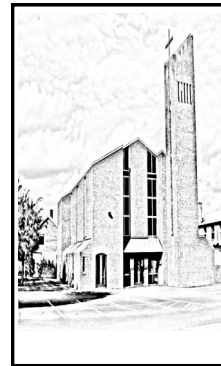
What's at the origin of this? There are multiple ways this story can be used to shed light on the divisions in our world today. Here's one: Writing in The Atlantic last year, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt suggested that there is perhaps no better metaphor to explain the divisions among us today than the Tower of Babel. His argument runs this way: Social media, the very thing that was meant to connect us not only to our friends and families but to people from around the globe, has in fact led to a radical fragmentation of our society and to the shattering of all that had seemed solid, the scattering of people who had been a community. Take America, for example; while we might still be speaking the same language, social media and cable news echo chambers have supplied us with different sets of facts, values, and visions that make actual conversation increasingly impossible. As the recent tensions around the US Presidential elections made evident, as a society we no longer speak the same language in that we can no longer understand each other on virtually every key issue – global warming, immigration, poverty, gender, health, abortion, the place of religion in the public sphere, whose side truth is on, and, most important of all, what truth is. We no longer share any common truths. Rather, we all have our own truth, our own individual language. As the popular saying goes, I have done my own research! I don't trust science. I don't trust any mainstream truths.

I have my own sources. And those sources are many, too many to count! Hundreds of television channels, countless podcasts and millions of persons feeding us their idiosyncratic version of things on social media so that now there is skepticism about any fact or truth. This is dividing us at every level: family, neighbourhood, church, country, and world. We are all now speaking different languages and, like the original inhabitants of Babel, are being scattered around the world. In the light of this, it is noteworthy how the original Pentecost is described in scripture. The Acts of the Apostles describes Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, as an event which reverses what happened at the Tower of Babel. At the Tower of Babel, the languages (the "tongues") of the earth divided and scattered. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends on each person as a "tongue of fire" so that, to everyone's great surprise, everyone now understands everyone else in his or her own language. Again, what is being described here is not about literal human languages – where at Pentecost everyone suddenly understood Greek or Latin. Rather everyone now understood everyone else in his or her own language. All languages became one language.

What is that common language? It's neither Greek nor Latin nor English nor French nor Spanish nor Yiddish nor Chinese nor Arabic, nor any other of the world's spoken languages. Neither is it the less-than-fully-compassionate language of the conservatives or the liberals. It is, as Jesus and our scriptures make clear, the language of charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, fidelity, gentleness, faith, and chastity.

This is the only language which can bridge the misunderstandings and differences among us – and when we are speaking it, we will not be trying to build a tower to impress anyone.

Pob Bendith. God bless you & Keep you. Fr Pius CMI



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24th November 2024 Christ the King of the Universe

LITURGY OF THE WEEK: Psalter Week II

Mass times: Mon:10am Tue:7pm, Wed-Friday 10am. Sat.5.30pm. Sun.11am

Live Streaming Link:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/mold>

23rd November Saturday 5.30pm

For all bereaved parents of the parish and souls of their beloved Children (Jean Ward)

24th November Sunday 11am

Irene Hart RIP (*Margaret & Mike Bunting*)
Anthony Humphreys RIP (*Jean & Tony Bartley*)

Monday Liturgy of the day
25th Nov Int. Jane Langdon (*Sr. Mary O'Callaghan*)
Tuesday Liturgy of the day **7pm (Rosary at 6.35pm)**
26th Nov Joe Walsh RIP (*Agnes Walsh*)
Margaret McFaddon RIP (*Hugo & Kathleen*)

Wednesday Liturgy of the day
27th Nov David Michael Davies RIP (*Jean & Tony Bartley*)

Thursday Liturgy of the day
28th Nov Deceased Family Members of Morgan, Nisbet, Rush & Moran Families (*Ann and Jerry Morgan*)

6.30pm: Deceased brothers of North Wales Catenian Association

Friday Liturgy of the day
29th Nov Deceased Members of Hamill & Galvin Families (*J & R*)
Eucharistic Adoration until 11am

Confessions
On Saturdays and Sundays before the Mass
(Saturdays 5pm to 5.20 and Sundays 10.30am to 10.50).
Weekdays after the Mass, on Request.



First Sunday of Advent C

30th November Sat 5.30pm
Alan McDonald RIP
(*Mary McDonald*)

1st December Sun 11am
Sr. Margaret Catlow RIP
(*The Cotter Family*)

KINGDOM OF TRUTH

When Pontius Pilate asked whether Jesus was a king, he replied by saying that he was born to be king, that his kingdom was about witnessing to the truth and that those who are on the side of truth listen to his voice. If we are to be citizens of this kingdom of truth then we have three responsibilities.

First, we must know the truth. The truth for Christians is that Jesus is the Son of God. He is a historical person, not simply some sort of philosophy or designer lifestyle. He was sent by the Father to reveal to the world the sort of God we have and what God expects of us. Jesus teaches us the truth about how to be fully human, how to live life to the full in the way that God intends for our happiness. And Jesus makes promises on the Father's behalf for those who sincerely try to follow him, led by the Spirit of Truth. The truth is that we will nev-

er be abandoned or left to our own devices, that God cares about us and watches over us constantly.

Secondly, we must walk in the truth. Knowing the truth is not enough. We are called to live it. Living the truth means being faithful to



what God asks of us in Jesus. It means living for other people rather than working for our own comfort. It means being called on to make sacrifices for something that is greater than our own present cosiness. A citizen of the kingdom of truth is a civil servant, someone whose life is devoted to enhancing other people's life. Thirdly, we must pro-

tect the truth. Just as a worldly kingdom strives to safeguard its own values and standards, so must we do all in our power to protect and proclaim the principles of the kingdom of truth. This means being vigilant and observant of any attempt to distort human dignity in any shape or form. We have a Christian duty to defend the shared ideals of God's kingdom.

By doing this we will be faithful to our citizenship but it will be a faithfulness that has its cost. For the goals of the kingdom are not those shared by most of our society or indeed our world. But we will be sharing in the Spirit's work of building a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.



QR Code for Today's Readings.

News, Notices and Events

KSC 2025 Calendar

The KSC 2025 Calendar, price £5 will be on sale this weekend 23/24 before and after Masses. **Mike Cotter/Peter Carberry**

Missio Red Boxes:

Dear parishioners, it's time to bring your RED BOXES into the church for them to be emptied. Thank you. **Agnes.Christmas**

Light Up a Life

A "Light up a Life " service will be held at St. Mary's Church 2pm on Sunday December 1st. An uplifting service to remember those we have loved and lost. Held by Nightingale House Support Group. **Sue Cocker**

Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley

Festive Family Bingo Friday November 29th—Doors open at 5.30pm for 6pm start. Adults £5 Children £3, pay on the door. Entry includes 5 cards. Refreshments available. **Anna Walsh**

St Nicholas's Tea

The SVP warmly invites everybody to a special tea in the Church Hall at 2 pm on Wednesday 4th December. If you'd like to come along, please sign the list at the back of church. We look forward to seeing you! **Chris, Mary and Sr Helen**

SVP at Christmas 2024

Last Christmas, thanks to parishioners' great generosity, we were able to give food store vouchers to **79 families** in need and gift cards to **118 young people** who might not receive much at Christmas. With your help, we hope to assist struggling families and young people again this year. At weekend masses from mid-November until mid-December there will be a box at the back of the Church for parishioners to donate '**One 4 All**' gift cards to the value of **£15** (widely available). (Cash donations also welcome.) Many thanks for your continuing support! **Mary McCarry and Chris Walsh**

SVP Film Club: The next 'silver screen' film showing will be at **2pm on Wednesday, 27th November** in the Church Hall.

The film will be Emilio Estevez's *The Way*, starring Martin Sheen. ! **Mary,Chris&Sr.Helen**

"Into the Future"-

The Diocesan Development Plan

Following the Listening Exercise consultation, the plan with reference to amalgamating Mold and Buckley is about to be implemented.

Canon Doyle will retire from full time parish duty on **Monday 18th February 2025**. From that date, I will be looking after both the parishes. Consequently, weekly Mass schedules will be affected, Holy Week services will be shared between the two Mass centres etc. Further details have yet to be confirmed.

Bishop Peter will celebrate the Masses in both churches on **7th/8th December**. Join him for tea and coffee in the hall after 11am Mass on 8th. Full amalgamation will take time, and for a year or so, the two churches will act as separate parishes. **Fr.Pius CMI**

P.S My annual home visit to India from 6th January to 6th February 2025.

Commissioning of Readers and Blessing of new Lectionaries

Following the Reader 'training' last month, we wish to invite all Readers to come together at the weekend Masses on the First Sunday of Advent (30 Nov, 1st Dec) when Fr Pius will bless the new Lectionary, before it is used at Mass for the first time, and the Book of the Gospels, as well as the Readers, yourselves. More details to follow, but we would be grateful if you can mark this in your diary to attend, Saturday or Sunday. **Deacon John Goggin**

We remember in our prayer

Those whose anniversaries Occur this week

(**23rd Nov**) Ronald Sylvester Mc Hugh,Camillo Gizzi, Ann Williams, Jim Dunlea (24th Nov) Elizabeth Parker; (25th Nov) Martin Wilson,(**26th Nov**) James Brannan, Wilfrid Toner (**27th Nov**) Patrick Garretty, Anthony Walsh, Andrew Shanaghan, Ann Elizabeth Morgan, Gerald O'Leary, Simone Lazzaro, Vincenza Sciarillo, David Davies, Norman Jackson, Anthony Humphries, (**28th Nov**) Patrick Hynes, Mary Mitchell; (**29th Nov**) Elizabeth Morgan, Esther Beavan,